TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 41, wherein said blade has a notch at said rear edge.

3. (previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 41, wherein said rear edge has a plurality of fingers.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 41, wherein said blade holder is coupled to said blade by a frictional fit.

6. (withdrawn) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade holder has a clip that is attached to said blade.

7. (withdrawn) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade can pivot relative to said blade holder.

8. (withdrawn) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade holder has a cavity.

9. (previously presented) A blade assembly that can be assembled into an inner cavity of a microkeratome, the inner cavity having a reference surface, the microkeratome having a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that has coupling means for coupling said rear edge of said blade to said blade holder, said blade holder having a slot that receives the microkeratome pin.

10. (original) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade has a notch at each side edge.

11. (currently amended) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said rear edge has a ~~plurality of fingers~~notch.

12. (canceled)

13. (original) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade holder is coupled to said blade by a frictional fit.

14. (withdrawn) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade holder has an outer groove.

15. (withdrawn) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade holder has a cavity.

16-32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a medical device used to cut a cornea, comprising;

a blade holder that has a plurality of slots; and,

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge, said rear edge having a plurality of fingers that are pressed into said blade holder slots to secure said blade holder to said blade.

34. (previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 33, wherein blade has a notch at each side edge.

35. (previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 33, wherein said blade holder is attached to an edge of said fingers.

36. (previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 33, wherein said blade holder is attached to said blade by a factional fit.

37. (withdrawn) The blade assembly of claim 33, wherein said blade holder has a cavity.

38. (withdrawn) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a medical device used to cut a cornea, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge, each side edge having a notch; and,

a blade holder that has a pair of clips that are attached to said blade at said blade notches.

39. (withdrawn) The blade assembly of claim 38, wherein said blade holder can move relative to said blade.

40. (withdrawn) The blade assembly of claim 38, wherein said blade holder is attached to said blade by a frictional fit.

41. (previously presented) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome, the microkeratome having a pin, the blade assembly comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges; and

a blade holder that has a blade holder reference surface oriented so as to enable calibrating the blade to fix a distance between the blade holder reference surface and the cutting edge, the blade holder further having a slot to receive the microkeratome pin.

42. (new) The blade assembly of claim 11, wherein said rear edge has a plurality of fingers within said notch.

43. (new) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said coupling means for coupling said rear edge of said blade to said blade holder includes a notch and a plurality of fingers within said notch.